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TAGS: SCPN
SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING JUNE 8, 1981

DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN (DEAN FISCHER) VOLUNTEERED FOLLOWING STATEMENT TO THE PRESS AT 11:15 A.M. JUNE 8, PRIOR TO USUAL NOON BRIEFING:

-- THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL HAS INFORMED THE UNITED STATES THAT THE ISRAELI AIR FORCE ATTACKED THE IRAQI NUCLEAR RESEARCH FACILITY AT TUWAITHA ON JUNE 7. WE HAD NO PRIOR KNOWLEDGE OF THE RAID AND WE HAVE NO FURTHER INFORMATION.

WE ARE NOW SEEKING MORE INFORMATION CONCERNING THE ATTACK. THIS IS CLEARLY A VERY SERIOUS DEVELOPMENT AND A SOURCE OF UTMOST CONCERN.

-- WE HAVE NO FIRST-HAND DETAILS OF THE ATTACK OR OF THE OVERALL DAMAGE, INCLUDING CASUALTIES. OUR INITIAL ESTIMATE OF POTENTIAL RADIATION EFFECTS IS THAT THEY WOULD PROBABLY BE MINIMAL AND LIMITED TO THE IMMEDIATE VICINITY OF THE INSTALLATION. THIS IS BASED ON PRELIMINARY INFORMATION ABOUT THE AMOUNT AND QUALITY OF MATERIAL IN THE FACILITY AT THE TIME OF THE ATTACK. THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IS READY TO RESPOND TO ANY REQUESTS FOR HELP IN MONITORING THE EXTENT OF ANY NUCLEAR EFFECTS AND IN DEALING WITH ANY OTHER RELATED PROBLEMS.

-- ONCE WE HAVE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, WE WILL HAVE MORE TO SAY ABOUT THIS MATTER. (END STATEMENT)

(NOON BRIEFING BEGINS WITH FOLLOWING STATEMENT)

-- THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT CONDEMNS THE REPORTED ISRAELI AIR STRIKE ON THE IRAQ NUCLEAR FACILITY, THE UNPRECENDENTED CHARACTER OF WHICH CANNOT BUT SERIOUSLY ADD TO THE ALREADY TENSE SITUATION IN THE AREA.

-- AVAILABLE EVIDENCE SUGGESTS THAT US-PROVIDED EQUIPMENT WAS EMPLOYED IN POSSIBLE VIOLATION OF THE APPLICABLE AGREEMENT UNDER WHICH IT WAS SOLD TO ISRAEL, AND A REPORT TO THIS EFFECT IS BEING PREPARED FOR SUBMISSION TO THE U.S. CONGRESS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RELEVANT U.S. STATUTE.

Q. WHAT WOULD THE CONSEQUENCE OF A FINDING THAT IN FACT THE LAW HAD BEEN VIOLATED?

A. I'M NOT PERSONALLY FAMILIAR WITH THE PROCEDURES WHICH FOLLOW THE SUBMISSION OF A REPORT: IT OUGHT TO BE CHECKED, BUT I BELIEVE EITHER THE ADMINISTRATION OR THE

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CONGRESS CAN MAKE A DETERMINATION AS TO WHETHER OR NOT A VIOLATION OF THE LAW OCCURRED.
Q. IN OTHER WORDS, WOULD IT AFFECT THE FUTURE SUPPLY OF EQUIPMENT?
A. THIS WOULD OBVIOUSLY DEPEND UPON THE DETERMINATION THAT WAS MADE.
Q. DEAN, DO YOU KNOW WHICH TYPE, WHICH PLANES THAT WERE USED, AND HOW MANY?
A. I DON'T HAVE SPECIFIC INFORMATION. I DID SAY EARLIER THIS MORNING THAT THERE WERE AMERICAN AIRCRAFT THAT WERE USED.
Q. HOW DO WE KNOW WHETHER AMERICAN PLANES WERE USED? DO WE KNOW THAT FROM THE ISRAELIS OR FROM OUR OWN PEOPLE IN BAGHDAD?
A. WE HAVE INFORMATION THAT AMERICAN PLANES WERE USED. I DON'T WANT TO GO INTO DETAIL ABOUT HOW WE KNOW THAT BECAUSE IT COULD INVOLVE CERTAIN INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION.
Q. WAS THE AWACS USED AT ALL? WERE THEY IN ANY WAY OBSERVING THESE DEVELOPMENTS?
A. I WANT TO REITERATE, AS I SAID PREVIOUSLY, THAT WE DID NOT KNOW OF THE ATTACK UNTIL AFTER IT TOOK PLACE.
Q. BUT WHEN DID THE ISRAELIS INFORM YOU YESTERDAY? WHAT WAS THE EXACT TIME?
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A. I DON'T HAVE THE EXACT HOUR. WE WERE INFORMED OF IT LATE YESTERDAY AFTERNOON OUR TIME.
Q. HERE OR IN ISRAEL?
A. WE WERE INFORMED THROUGH THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN TEL AVIV.
Q. IF YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT THIS UNTIL THE ISRAELIS TOLD YOU, THEN PRESUMABLY EITHER THE AWACS DOESN'T FUNCTION OR IT DIDN'T SEE THIS.
A. I DON'T WANT TO GET INTO A QUESTION ABOUT THE USE OR CAPABILITIES OF THE AWACS. I AGAIN WANT TO REPEAT, WE HAD NO INFORMATION ABOUT THIS ATTACK UNTIL AFTER IT TOOK PLACE.
Q. WHEN YOU SAY "WE", YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT BOTH THE STATE DEPARTMENT AND THE WHITE HOUSE, IS THAT CORRECT?
A. I'M SPEAKING FOR THE ADMINISTRATION.
Q. CAN YOU SAY IF WE'VE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THE IRAQI GOVERNMENT, AND IS THERE ANY CONCERN HERE THAT THIS EVENT MAY LEAD TO WIDER CONFLICT?
A. WE HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH A NUMBER OF GOVERNMENTS IN THE AREA IN RELATION TO THIS. I DON'T WANT TO GET INTO ANY DETAIL ABOUT WHICH SPECIFIC COUNTRIES WITH WHOM WE'VE HAD DIPLOMATIC EXCHANGES.

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Q. I JUST WANT A SECOND PART OF THE QUESTION: ARE WE CONCERNED THAT THIS MAY LEAD TO ANY KIND OF RETALIATION OR ANY SPARK, ANY KIND OF A WIDER TENSION?

A. OF COURSE, WE'RE CONCERNED THAT ANY INCIDENT LIKE THIS HAS THE POTENTIAL OF CONTRIBUTING MORE TO THE ALREADY EXISTING TENSIONS IN THE AREA.

Q. WHAT DOES THIS DO TO THE HABIB MISSION?

A. OBVIOUSLY, WE WOULD HOPE THAT THE HABIB MISSION WOULD CONTINUE. AS YOU KNOW, HE WAS PLANNING TO GO ON TO THE MIDDLE EAST, AND THAT IS OUR HOPE, THAT HIS MISSION WILL CONTINUE.

Q. DEAN, YOU STARTED OUT BY SAYING, "THE U.S. CONDEMNS THE ACTION." NOW, THE ISRAELIS IN DEFENSE OF THEIR ACTION HAVE SAID THEY HAD INFORMATION THAT IRAQ WAS DEVELOPING A BOMB TO BE USED AGAINST ISRAEL, AND THAT THE STATION WAS GOING TO GO INTO ACTIVITY AS EARLY AS JULY OR SEPTEMBER.

I REALIZE THIS IS A DELICATE AREA, BUT SINCE THE U.S. HAS CONDEMNED THE ATTACK, THE IMPRESSION GIVEN IS THAT THE AMERICANS DID NOT SHARE ISRAEL'S IMMINENT SENSE OF CONCERN OVER THIS.

DOES THE UNITED STATES AGREE AT ALL WITH THE ISRAELI ASSESSMENTS OF THE DIRE NATURE OF THE THREAT TO THEM?

A. I WOULD POINT OUT THE FOLLOWING: THAT IRAQ IS A PARTY TO THE NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY AND HAS UNDERTAKEN TO ACCEPT THE SAFEGUARDS OF THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY ON ALL ITS NUCLEAR ACTIVITIES.

WE HAVE HAD NO EVIDENCE THAT IRAQ HAD VIOLATED ITS COMMITMENT UNDER THIS TREATY. BUT, AS WE HAVE SAID

BEFORE, THE UNITED STATES IS CONCERNED THAT THE AVAILABILITY OF HIGHLY ENRICHED URANIUM AND THE ACQUISITION OF SENSITIVE NUCLEAR FACILITIES CAN INCREASE THE RISK OF NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION, PARTICULARLY IN SENSITIVE AND VOLATILE AREAS LIKE THE MIDDLE EAST.

Q. WHERE IS THE ENRICHED URANIUM? DID THE ISRAELIS IN THIS STRIKE HIT THE URANIUM? OR IS IT STORED SOMEWHERE OUTSIDE OF THE REACTOR, SINCE THE REACTOR WASN'T WORKING? IS THAT CORRECT?

A. IN MY STATEMENT THIS MORNING I THINK I REFERRED TO OUR PRELIMINARY ESTIMATES, INDICATING THAT RADIATION EFFECTS WOULD PROBABLY BE MINIMAL AND LIMITED TO THE IMMEDIATE FACILITY. I CAN'T GO BEYOND THAT.

Q. DEAN, BY YOUR PREVIOUS STATEMENT ARE YOU SAYING THAT THE REACTOR IN IRAQ DOES NOT HAVE ANY NUCLEAR WEAPONRY MANUFACTURING CAPABILITY?

A. I DON'T BELIEVE I SAID THAT IT HAD NO CAPABILITY, NO. YOU'RE SPEAKING OF NUCLEAR MANUFACTURE?
Q. YES. MANUFACTURE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS. DOES IT HAVE THAT CAPABILITY ACCORDING TO YOUR ASSESSMENT?
A. I CAN ONLY GO BACK TO WHAT I SAID BEFORE ABOUT OUR LACK OF EVIDENCE THAT IRAQ HAS VIOLATED ITS COMMITMENTS UNDER THE NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY.
Q. BUT YOU'RE NOT AWARE THAT IRAQ HAS STARTED OR IS IN THE PROCESS OF PRODUCING ANY NUCLEAR WEAPONS THERE?
A. I DON'T WANT TO GO BEYOND WHAT I STATED EARLIER.
Q. BUT ARE YOU COMPLETELY EXONERATING IRAQ? COULD

YOU READ OVER THOSE LAST FEW SENTENCES ABOUT THE US'S CONCERN AND THAT PART?
A. THE U.S. IS CONCERNED THAT THE AVAILABILITY OF HIGHLY ENRICHED URANIUM AND THE ACQUISITION OF SENSITIVE NUCLEAR FACILITIES CAN INCREASE THE RISK OF NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION; AND I WOULD ADD THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS REPEATEDLY EXPRESSED ITS CONCERN, BOTH PUBLICLY IN THIS FORUM AND IN OUR DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES, BUT THE IRAQI NUCLEAR PROGRAM COULD POSE A RISK OF NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION AT SOME POINT IN THE FUTURE.
Q. DEAN, EARLIER IN THAT STATEMENT YOU SAID THAT THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT IRAQ HAS VIOLATED ITS COMMITMENTS UNDER THE NPT. THAT BRINGS UP THE QUESTION OF WHETHER OR NOT THE ISRAELIS HAVE SHOWN YOU, OR HAVE OFFERED TO SHOW YOU, THEIR INFORMATION ON WHICH THEIR ESTIMATE IS BASED.
HAVE YOU HAD A CHANCE TO LOOK AT THIS? HAVE THEY OFFERED YOU THAT OPPORTUNITY?
A. I WOULDN'T GET INTO THE QUESTION OF ANY DIPLOMATIC EXCHANGES THAT HAVE TAKEN PLACE.
Q. DO YOU KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT THE VICTIMS OF THE RAID, AND FROM WHICH NATIONALITY THEY ARE?
A. NOT BEYOND WHAT I STATED TO YOU THIS MORNING. NOT AT THIS TIME.
Q. DEAN, THERE ARE MANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS WHICH HAVEN'T BEEN CLEARED UP. IN THE FIRST PLACE, ISN'T IT

TRUE THAT IRAQI PRESIDENT HUSSEIN SAID AT THE TIME OF THE IRANIAN BOMBING OF THIS SO-CALLED FACILITY, THAT THE BOMB WAS NOT INTENDED -- THE IRAQI BOMB WAS NOT INTENDED FOR IRAN BUT FOR AGAINST ISRAEL ALONE.
A. YOU'RE ASKING ME IF IT'S TRUE THAT HE STATED THAT? I HAVE SEEN THAT REPORTED IN THE PRESS.
Q. YOU'VE SEEN THE REPORT. ALL RIGHT. ISN'T IT ALSO

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TRUE THAT THE UNITED STATES HAD ASKED THE FRENCH NOT TO SUPPLY THIS TYPE OF REACTOR TO IRAQ BECAUSE OF THE POTENTIALITY OF IRAQ BUILDING AN ATOMIC BOMB?
A. I'M NOT THAT FAMILIAR WITH THE HISTORY.
Q. DID YOU MAKE YOUR STATEMENT THAT YOU JUST MADE BEFORE YOU RECEIVED INFORMATION FROM JERUSALEM AS TO BEGIN'S STATEMENT TONIGHT IN WHICH HE IS DISCUSSING THIS WHOLE MATTER?
A. I AM NOT AWARE OF THE SPEECH BY THE ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER.
Q. DO YOU HAVE FULL INFORMATION FROM THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT AS TO WHAT TRANSPIRED BEFORE YOU MADE THESE STATEMENTS?
A. I CAN ASSURE YOU, I WOULDN'T HAVE MADE THIS STATEMENT WITHOUT IT HAVING BEEN CLEARED AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF THIS GOVERNMENT.
Q. DO YOU REMEMBER THE ALLEGED IRANIAN ATTACK ON THIS SAME FACILITY BACK IN THE EARLY DAYS OF THE WAR BETWEEN IRAN AND IRAQ, AND THERE WERE CHARGES AT THAT TIME THAT THAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN AN ISRAELI ATTACK? I'M JUST CURIOUS IF THIS SUBJECT WAS EVER ADDRESSED IN OUR DISCUSSIONS
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WITH THE ISRAELIS?
A. I DO NOT PERSONALLY KNOW WHETHER OR IF IT WAS EVER DISCUSSED. I WAS SIMPLY ADDRESSED MYSELF EARLIER TO THE FACT THAT WE DID NOT KNOW ABOUT THIS ATTACK.
Q. DEAN, ON THAT PRECISE SUBJECT, YOU DESCRIBED THIS ATTACK AS UNPRECEDENTED. YOU SEEM TO BE SAYING, THEN, THAT THE SEPTEMBER ATTACK WAS NOT AN ISRAELI ATTACK?
A. I'M NOT CONFIRMING OR DENYING OR COMMENTING ON ANY POSSIBLE ATTACK LAST SEPTEMBER.
Q. BUT YOU USE OF THE WORD "UNPRECEDENTED" WOULD SEEM TO INDICATE THAT YOU DON'T BELEIVE IT WAS ISRAELI.
A. NO. I'M NOT MAKING A VALUE JUDGEMENT ON THAT.
Q. DEAN, DID OUR FIRST KNOWLEDGE THAT THE ATTACK HAD OCCURRED COME FROM ISRAEL?
A. YES.
Q. DID WE HAVE INDEPENDENT KNOWLEDGE BEFORE ISRAEL TOLD US THAT THE ATTACK HAD OCCURRED?
A. NO.
Q. DEAN, ITALY OR AN ITALIAN FIRM SUPPLIED IRAQ RECENTLY ABOUT A HALF A YEAR AGO, WITH AN INSTALLATION CALLED "HOT CELL" USED ALMOST ONLY FOR PRODUCING NUCLEAR WEAPONS. THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT IT TO THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT AND WAS NEGOTIATING -- EVEN
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PRESIDENT CARTER BROUGHT IT UP WITH THE ITALIAN PRIME

MINISTER COLOMBO WHEN HE WAS IN EUROPE TO MEET WITH HIM; AND THE EVIDENCE TO IT IS A LETTER SENT BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT TO EX-SENATOR STONE, DISCUSSING EXACTLY THIS MATTER.
NOW YOU SAY YOU HAVE NO EVIDENCE THAT IRAQ WAS PLANNING OR WAS ABOUT TO ACQUIRE UUCLEAR -- MILITARY NUCLEAR CAPABILITY.
A. I SAID WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE THAT IRAQ HAD VIOLATED ITS COMMITMENT TO THE TREATY.
Q. BUT THEY MUST HAVE A NUCLEAR DEVICE, EXPLOSIVE DEVICE AND MAYBE EXPLOYED BEFORE YOU WILL AGREE AND YOU WILL CONCLUDE THAT THEY HAVE A MILIATRY NUCLEAR DEVICE? THIS IS WHAT YOU SAY?
A. I'M NOT GOING TO GO BEYOND WHAT I SAID IN MY STATEMENT ABOUT US HAVING NO EVIDENCE OF VIOLATION, BUT ALSO INDICATING OUR BELIEF THAT THE IRAQI NUCLEAR PROGRAM COULD POSE A RISK OF NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION AT SOME POINT IN THE FUTURE.
Q. DEAN, YOU SAID IN YOUR FIRST STATEMENT THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IS READY TO RESPOND TO ANY REQUEST FOR HELP, PARTICULARLY DEALING WITH RAPIATION. HAS THER BEEN ANY REQUEST FROM THE IRAQIS?
A. TO MY KNOWLEDGE, NO.
Q. CAN I AGAIN COME BACK TO THE QUESTION: WHAT IS IT THE U.S. IS CONDEMNING? IS IT A VIOLATION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW? IN OTHER WORDS, ISRAEL HAS BEEN BOMBING IN LEBANON ON AN ALMOST WEEKLY BASIS, AND YOU'VE NEVER CONDEMNED IT?
A. I THINK THE STATEMENT INDICATES THAT THERE ARE TWO

REASONS; ONE IS THAT IT CANNOT BUT ADD TO THE ALREADY TENSE SITUATION IN THE AREA. SECONDLY, THAT THE EVIDENCE INDICATES THAT US-PROVIDED EQUIPMENT WAS EMPLOYED IN POSSIBLE VIOLATION OF THE AGREEMENT UNDER WHICH IT WAS SOLD TO ISRAEL.
Q. BUT U.S. EQUIPMENT IS USED IN ALL OF THEIR BOMBING RAIDS.
A. I THINK THE STATEMENT SPEAKS FOR ITSELF.
Q. I'M TRYING TO GET AT WHAT IS UNPRECEDENTED ABOUT IT? UNPRECEDENTED IT'S A NUCLEAR FACILITY, BUT ISRAEL HAS FREELY BOMBED IN LEBANON WITHOUT HARLLY MORE THAN A WRIST BEING SLAPPED HERE, USING AMERICAN EQUIPMENT -- IN OTHER WORDS, BOTH OF THESE -- AND YOU'VE SAID LAST WEEK IT DIDN'T HELP THE SITUATION.
A. RIGHT. BUT I CAN'T ADD ANYTHING TO WHAT I'VE ALREADY GIVEN YOU ON THIS BECAUSE: AS YOU KNOW, THERE ARE QUESTIONS OF SELF-DEFENSE INVOLVED; THERE ARE QUESTIONS OF SPECIFICALLY WHAT IN THE STATUTE MAY HAVE BEEN VIOLATED. THIS IS A DETERMINATION THAT HAS YET TO BE MADE, AND I CAN'T ADD ANYTHING TO YOUR QUESTION ABOUT THE USE OF THE

WORD "UNPRECEDENTED" EXCEPT IN TERMS OF THE SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH WE VIEW THE ACTION.
Q. HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE TO DO THIS REPORT TO CONGRESS ON WHETHER THE ISRAELIS ILLEGALLY USED OUR EQUIPMENT?
A. I DON'T KNOW. I SHOULD THINK IT WOULD BE UP THERE FAIRLY SWIFTLY.

Q. CAN I ASK ONE OTHER THING? IN RELATION TO THE HABIB MISSION, HAVE WE HEARD, FOR INSTANCE, FROM THE SAUDIS OR THE OTHER ARAB FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING IN LEBANON ABOUT WHETHER THEY'RE WILLING TO GO FORWARD WITH THE MISSION, AND WHERE IS MR. HABIB?
A. WE HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH VARIOUS OF THE PARTIES INVOLVED IN THE MISSION, AND I CAN'T COMMENT ON ANY OF THE DIPLOMATIC EXCHANGES. YOU ASK WHERE IS MR. HABIB?
Q. IS IT YOUR ASSUMPTION THAT HIS MISSION IS GOING FORWARD?
A. AS I SAID, I CERTAINLY HOPE SO.
Q. BUT THERE'S NOTHING THAT THEY SAID THAT INDICATES IT'S NOT?
A. NOTHING TO INDICATES IT'S NOT? THAT'S CORRECT.
Q. AND WHERE IS MR. HABIB?
A. I DON'T KNOW AT THIS MOMENT.
Q. DEAN, HOW DO YOU THINK THIS ACTION AND THE U.S. CONDEMNATION IS GOING TO AFFECT U.S. RELATION WITH ISRAEL?
A. I THINK I CAN ONLY RESPOND TO THAT IN THE TERMS THAT I'VE PREVIOUSLY USED: THAT WE HOPE OUR DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVE IN THE AREA WILL CONTINUE TO BE RECOGNIZED, AS WE RECOGNIZE IT, AS TERRIBLY IMPORTANT TO AN ATTEMPT TO CONTRIBUTE TO STABILITY IN THE AREA.
Q. HOW HAS THE CONDEMNATION BEEN CONVEYED TO THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT?

A. I DON'T KNOW SPECIFICALLY. THIS STATEMENT WILL OBVIOUSLY BE MADE PUBLIC, IF IT HASN'T ALREADY.
Q. THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT IN MAKING THE ANNOUNCEMENT SAID THAT BOMBS WERE TO BE MANUFACTURED AT THIS FACILITY, SIMILAR TO THE TYPE DROPPED ON HIROSHIMA IN WORLD WAR II. AND THEN IT GOES ON AND SAYS, "THUS WAS CREATED A DANGER TO THE EXISTENCE OF THE NATURE OF ISRAEL, TO THE NATION OF ISRAEL."
DOES THE UNITED STATES ACCEPT THE STATEMENT THAT THIS WAS A THREAT TO ISRAEL'S EXISTENCE?
A. I ADDRESSED MYSELF TO THAT EARLIER, AND I HAVE NOTHING I CAN SAY THAT WOULD GO BEYOND THAT.
Q. DEAN, ARE THERE ANY PLANS FOR -- BEYOND YOUR STATEMENT--FOR ANY KIND OF A FORMAL OR OFFICIAL DIPLOMATIC

PROTEST?
A. AGAIN, THIS FALLS INTO THE CATEGORY OF DIPLOMATIC EXCHANGES WHICH I CAN'T COMMENT ON.
Q. NORMALLY, WHEN A DIPLOMATIC PROTEST IS MADE BY US, IT'S ANNOUNCED.
A. OF COURSE, IT IS. IF IT IS MADE, IT WILL BE ANNOUNCED
Q. IS THE ISRAELI AMBASSADOR COMING IN AT ALL TODAY?
A. I'M NOT AWARE OF ANY PLANS FOR HIM TO DO SO.
Q. HOW ABOUT SAM LEWIS? IS HE TALKING TO PEOPLE AT

HIGH LEVELS OF THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT?
A. I WOULD ASSUME SO, IN THE NORMAL COURSE OF OUR DIPLOMATIC EXCHANGES.
Q. A FOLLOW-UP ON THAT. HAS EVRON BEEN HERE YESTERDAY OR TODAY?
A. NOT TO MY KNOWLEDGE.
Q. DEAN, TWO QUICK QUESTIONS: IS THE DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVE UNDERTAKEN BY MR. HABIB NOW GOING TO BE BROADENED TO INCLUDE POSSIBLY HOSTILITIES BEYOND SYRIA AND ISRAEL OVER LEBANON?
A. NO. THE PURPOSE OF HIS MISSION REMAINS THE SAME AS IT WAS WHEN WE DEFINED IT AT THE TIME OF HIS DEPARTURE. I WOULDN'T WANT TO SUGGEST THAT WHAT HAS HAPPENED HERE MIGHT NOT HAVE AN IMPACT, BUT THE PURPOSE REMAINS THE-SAME.
Q. DEAN, CAN I FOLLOW-UP ON THIS? IN YOUR EARLY STATEMENT THERE IS NO CONDEMNATION AND I WONDER IF THERE HAVE BEEN ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THIS.
A. YES, THAT'S CORRECT.
Q. THAT TURNS CONCERN INTO CONDEMNATION?
A. THAT'S THE REASON FOR IT, YES.
Q. IS THAT BASED ON OUR INDEPENDENT INFORMATION?
A. I CAN'T GET INTO WHAT TYPE OF INFORMATION IT IS.
Q. DEAN, YOU REPEATEDLY STRESSED THAT THE UNITED STATES

HAD NO FOREKNOWLEDGE OF THIS RAID.
A. CORRECT.
Q. DID THE ISRAELIS IN SOME WAY USE AMERICAN INTELLIGENCE TO CONDUCT THE RAID WITHOUT U.S. KNOWLEDGE?
A. NO. I DON'T QUITE SEE THE APPLICATION HERE, BUT I WANT TO CONTINUE TO REPEAT THAT WE DIDN'T HAVE ANY FOREKNOWLEDGE OF THE RAID. I CAN'T ADDRESS MYSELF TO INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION, BUT I CERTAINLY DON'T WANT TO LEAVE THE IMPLICATION THAT YOUR QUESTION HAS ANY AMPLIFICATION IN FACT.
Q. DO YOU KNOW IF ISRAEL HAS SIGNED A NON-PROLIFERATION AGREEMENT?

A. ISRAEL HAS NOT SIGNED THE NON-PROLIFERATION AGREEMENT.
Q. AND A FOLLOW-UP ON THIS: DOES YOUR EXPRESSION OF CONCERN COVER THE DIMONA FACILITY AND THE REPORTS THAT ISRAEL NOW HAS SEVERAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS?
A. I WOULD WANT TO SAY IN RESPECT TO THAT, THAT, AS YOU KNOW, THE U.S. HAS NO NUCLEAR COOPERATION WITH ISRAEL. OUR OWN POLICY IS CLEAR: THE PREVENTION OF THE SPREAD OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS IS AN IMPORTANT WORLD-WIDE OBJECTIVE OF THE UNITED STATES.
WE HAVE NOTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL HAS CONSISTENTLY AFFIRMED THAT IT WOULD NOT BE THE FIRST TO INTRODUCE NUCLEAR WEAPONS INTO THE REGION. BEYOND THAT

I CAN'T GO.
Q. DO YOU FEEL THAT THE ISRAELI ATTACK MIGHT NOW LEAD TO SOME KIND OF RETALIATION BY OTHER COUNTRIES WHO WOULD BELIEVE THAT ISRAEL POSSESSES A NUCLEAR WEAPON?
A. I CERTAINLY WOULDN'T WANT TO PREJUDGE THAT OR TO PRESUME THAT THAT IS THE LIKELY OUTCOME.
Q. DEAN, DO YOU HAVE ANY REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THE IRAQIS HAVE NOT ACKNOWLEDGED THIS RAID BECAUSE THEY MAY BE PREPARING FOR A RETALIATION OF SOME KIND?
A. NO, I AM NOT EVEN AWARE THAT THEY HAVE NOT ACKNOWLEDGED THIS RAID; ALTHOUGH I REALIZE THAT I HAVE NOT SEEN ANY PRESS REPORTS ACKNOWLEDGING IT.
Q. DEAN, USUALLY IN THIS SORT OF SITUATION THERE IS A GOOD DEAL OF CONCERN AS I THINK YOU SAID HERE, THAT WOULD LEAD TO SOME KIND OF A RETALIATION.
A. NO, I DIDN'T SAY HERE THAT IT WOULD LEAD TO ANY KIND OF RETALIATION.
Q. WELL, THAT IS WHAT I WANTED TO ASK YOU. IS THERE THAT CONCERN AND HAVE YOU EXPRESSED THE HOPE TO THE IRAQI GOVERNMENT THAT THIS WOULD NOT LEAD TO SOME RETALIATION?
A. HERE AGAIN, JOHN, I JUST DON'T WANT TO SAY WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN THE NATURE OF OUR DIPLOMATIC EXCHANGES WITH GOVERNMENTS IN THE REGION.
Q. DID YOU GET IN TOUCH WITH THE IRAQIS, PER SE?
A. I AGAIN, DON'T WANT TO CHARACTERIZE AND SPECIFY

WHICH COUNTRIES WITH WHOM WE HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH AND THOSE WITH WHOM WE HAVE NOT.
Q. DEAN, YOU STATED A FEW TIMES, MORE THAN ONCE, THAT YOU DIDN'T HAVE ANY PREVIOUS KNOWLEDGE OF IT. DO YOU EXPECT ISRAEL TO LET YOU KNOW OF THIS, IF THEY WERE GOING TO MAKE SUCH AN ATTACK?

A. NO, I AM NOT MAKING A VALUE JUDGMENT OF OUR EXPECTATIONS. I SIMPLY WANT TO MAKE SURE THE RECORD SHOWED AS PLAINLY AS POSSIBLE THAT WE HAD NO ADVANCE KNOWLEDGE OF THE ATTACK.
Q. DEAN, WOULD YOU SAY THAT IT MIGHT BE A DEFICIENCY OF U.S. INTELLIGENCE THAT WE DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT IT?
A. NO, NO, I WOULDN'T CHARACTERIZE THAT AS ANY SHORTCOMING ON THE PART OF OUR INTELLIGENCE.
Q. DEAN, IN THE PAST -- AS A MATTER OF FACT SEVERAL TIMES, THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAS CONCLUDED THAT THERE MAY HAVE BEEN A VIOLATION OF U.S. LAW. NOW HAVING DONE SO, JUST STOP RIGHT THERE. IS THAT TO BE THE CASE THIS TIME?
A. I CERTAINLY WOULDN'T WANT TO PREJUDGE IT. THE PROCESS HAS BEEN INITIATED AND WE WILL HAVE TO WAIT AND SEE WHAT IS THE OUTCOME. BUT I REALLY THINK THAT FOR DETAILS RELATING TO THE ATTACK, AND THE TYPE OF EQUIPMENT USED, ETC.,
IF I MAY GO ON BACKGROUND FOR A MOMENT: IT SEEMS TO ME THESE QUESTIONS OUGHT TO BE ADDRESSED TO THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL.

Q. JUST TO FOLLOW UP QUICKLY, WOULD YOU BE PREPARING A REPORT TO CONGRESS ON THE USE OF THE AMERICAN PLANES IF YOU VIEW THIS AS A DEFENSIVE ATTEMPT, OR A DEFENSIVE RAID BY ISRAEL?
A. WELL, I JUST DON'T WANT TO TRY TO CHARCTERIZE THE CONCLUSIONS THAT MAY BE DRAWN, PRIOR TO THEIR HAVING BEEN REACHED.
Q. WAS THE PRESIDENT INFORMED OF THE STATEMENT THAT YOU WERE GOING TO MAKE CONDEMNING THE ATTACK?
A. WELL, I DON'T WANT TO GET INTO THE SPECIFICS OF WHO CLEARED THE STATEMENT, EXCEPT TO REPEAT THAT THIS STATEMENT WAS KNOWN BY THE HIGHEST LEVELS, PRIOR TO ITS BEING MADE.
Q. CAN WE EXPECT A WHITE HOUSE ANNOUNCEMENT SOONER OR LATER?
A. I DON'T KNOW, YOU WILL HAVE TO ASK THE WHITE HOUSE ABOUT THAT. I AM NOT AWARE OF ANY PLANS FOR THE WHITE HOUSE TO MAKE A STATEMENT. BUT THAT IS A QUESTION YOU SHOULD ADDRESS THERE.
Q. DEAN, CAN YOU GIVE US A WORD OR AN ESTIMATE AS TO WHEN THE STATEMENT WILL GO TO THE CONGRESS; AND WHEN YOU WILL MAKE -- WHEN THE STATE DEPARTMENT WILL --
Q. NO, I'M SORRY I DON'T KNOW THE TIMING OF THAT. I INDICATED EARLIER, I WOULD THINK THAT THE STATEMENT OR A REPORT RATHER, WOULD BE SUBMITTED VERY SWIFTLY TO CONGRESS. AFTER THAT I REALLY CAN'T ESTIMATE.
Q. DEAN, YOU SAY YOU ARE NOT FAMILIAR WITE THE LAW IN

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TERMS OF THE NOTIFICATION OF CONGRESS OF THE USE OF
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U.S. WEAPONRY, ETC.
ISN'T IT A FACT THAT WHEN A SIMILAR FINDING WAS MADE
WITH REFERENCE TO GREECE AND TURKEY, THAT U.S. ARMS
SHIPMENTS TO TURKEY WERE SUSPENDED?
A. RIGHT.
Q. WOULD YOU DRAW AN ANALOGY?
A. NO. NO, BECAUSE AGAIN, I WOULD BE PREJUDGING THE
OUTCOME OF THIS PROCESS.
Q. DEAN, ACCORDING TO AN AP STORY, THERE WAS A SOVIET-
BUILT NUCLEAR FACILITY THAT WAS ON THE SAME SITE AS THIS
FRENCH FACILITY -- THAT WAS OPERATIONAL. DO YOU KNOW IF
THAT WAS HIT ALSO?
A. I DON'T HAVE ANY SPECIFIC KNOWLEDGE TO INDICATE
THAT.
Q. DEAN, WHY CAN'T YOU COMMENT ON -- GIVING US WHAT-
EVER YOU MIGHT HAVE ON THE DAMAGE OR THE CASUALTIES --
OR WHETHER THE REACTOR WAS TOTALLY DESTROYED OR NOT?
A. WELL, WE JUST DON'T HAVE THAT MUCH DETAILED AND
SPECIFIC INFORMATION ON THAT SUBJECT.
Q. BUT DEAN, YOU HAVE JUST SAID YOU HAVE AN ESTIMATE
ON THE DAMAGE.
A. YES, BUT --
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Q. COULD YOU TELL US WHAT IT IS?
A. I HAVE ALREADY DONE THAT AS FAR AS I AM PREPARED TO
GO.
Q. OTHER PEOPLE IN THE BUILDING ARE SAYING THAT THE
THING WAS KNOCKED OUT COMPLETELY.
A. WELL, I WILL HAVE TO LET THEM SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES.
I AM REPRESENTING THE OFFICIAL VIEW OF THE STATE
DEPARTMENT.
Q. COULD YOU TELL US WHETHER COUNTRIES SUCH AS SAUDI
ARABIA, SYRIA, LEBANON, EGYPT, JORDAN -- HAVE THIS
MORNING COME IN WITH STRONG CONDEMNATIONS OF THE ATTACK
TO THE DEPARTMENT AND INDICATED THAT THIS "CONCERN"
TO "CONDEMNATION" WAS -- OR WHY THIS MOVE ON THE PART
OF THE U.S.?
A. WELL, TO REPEAT WHAT I SAID EARLIER: TO MY KNOW-
LEDGE, WE HAVE NOT RECEIVED OFFICIAL CONFIRMATION.
BUT I DON'T WANT TO GET INTO ANY DETAILS OF DIPLOMATIC
EXCHANGES THAT HAVE TAKEN PLACE.
Q. DEAN, WOULD YOU BE ABLE TO TELL US WHETHER OR NOT
THIS CHANGE IN THE LANGUAGE FROM "CONCERN" TO
"CONDEMNATION" EMMANATED FROM THE WHITE HOUSE?
A. NO, I CAN'T TELL YOU THAT, AND WOULDN'T TELL YOU
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THAT.
Q. DEAN, CAN YOU TELL US WHETHER OR NOT THERE WAS ANY DISCUSSION ABOUT THIS BETWEEN THE WHITE HOUSE AND THE STATE DEPARTMENT -- BEFORE?
THE FIRST STATEMENT -- WAS THAT DISCUSSED BETWEEN THE
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STATE DEPARTMENT AND THE WHITE HOUSE AT THE TOP LEVEL?
A. BOTH STATEMENTS WERE DISCUSSED BETWEEN THE STATE DEPARTMENT AND THE WHITE HOUSE.
Q. DEAN, DO YOU HAVE AN EARLIER ASSESSMENT OF WHAT MIGHT BE THE EFFECT OF THE RAID ON YOUR RELATIONS WITH IRAQ?
A. NO, I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING I CAN GIVE YOU ON THAT.
Q. ARE YOU SAYING FLATLY THAT NOBODY IN THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAD ANY ADVANCE KNOWLEDGE THAT ISRAEL WAS GOING TO UNDERTAKE THIS RAID?
A. WELL, I AM NOT SPEAKING FOR THE ENTIRE POPULATION, BUT WHEN I USE THE WORD "WE" IT REFERS TO THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT.
Q. HAS THE UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR, OR THE MILITARY ATTACHE OUT IN TEL AVIV, RECEIVED FROM THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT ALL OF THE DETAILS OF THIS RAID?
A. I DON'T KNOW IF THAT IS THE CASE OR NOT. I'M NOT SURE THEY WOULD KNOW IF THEY HAD RECEIVED "ALL" OF THE DETAILS OF THE RAID. CLARK
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